



Fresh Memories - Recalled

by Ann Smith, Texas Coord.

Panel Members: Bob Ferreira, Kirk Marcy, Greg Stegeman, Gene DiNovi, Bill Comstock, Sue Barbour, Sue Raney, Tommy Boynton, Stein Malvey, and Curtis Calderon



Bob Ferreira, drummer, bass singer

Bob shared that his first convention was in Columbus, OH, when he was just 21 years old. He said that when he arrived, a greeter asked them if they were "The Four Horsemen".

Bob said that he and Kevin Stout joined the group at the same time. He said that the convention wasn't like we have it today. It was much smaller. It was held in one small room. When they entered the room, he and Kevin were famished and so they headed for the pizza table. They were intercepted by "a cute little old man" who got between them and the pizza table. He asked them, "what got you into the Four Freshmen?"

Kevin's desperate response was, "Peperoni and sausage."



Tommy Boynton, new lead singer, bass player

Tommy has been with the Four Freshmen for nine months now. He shared with us in an aside comment that New Year's Eve was Brian's last show and that he (Tommy) started the next day, on New Year's Day. He said the first few months were hectic, because he was learning new music and recording a CD. He said he was still teaching at the time, plus going on the road with the Four Freshmen. He said it took a lot of playing catch up.

Stein Malvey, tenor voice, guitar

In January the group rehearsed for a week in San Antonio. Bob and Stein were going to the airport to pick up Tommy. Stein asked Bob to play along with what he was going to do. They had never met Tommy before, only talked on the phone, emailed, etc. Stein related to us a tale that sounded as if it were meant to be a practical joke, fun and funny. He told Tommy that Brian wasn't leaving after all, (although that was not the case). Then Stein said, "We'll put you on a plane and give you \$50." Then he confessed that wasn't true and that Brian really had left. He said that Tommy's face was big eyed and solemn, but he seemed to take it in stride. As this tale unfolded, we never saw a smile or a laugh from Tommy.

One audience member said, "That's mean."

It's hard to know what the intention was.

Curtis Calderon, baritone voice, trumpet, flugelhorn

Curtis said that he'll never forget the first time he met Bob Flanigan. He said that he felt like Bob was 12 feet tall and that he (Curtis) was three feet tall.

He said they could all feel the love from the original Four Freshmen. (They appreciated the newer guys carrying on their legacy).

Another story is about Curtis and Bob in a taxi in Japan. Bob was most eager to make a pit stop. However, the driver didn't speak English and wasn't stopping. Bob said, "I have to go so bad I'm afraid to swallow."

Curtis had never heard that and thought it was hilarious.

